



PATHWAYS TO POTENTIAL

The Pathways to Potential program is an outgrowth of the Department of Human Services' commitment to locating where clients can connect with social workers most easily. The first phase of this program is the establishment of Family Resource Centers in area schools. The pilot program launched in Summer 2012 and includes schools in Detroit, Pontiac, Flint and Saginaw.

Beyond ensuring that children are attending school and have access to the resources necessary to be successful, the Family Resource Center will be equally supportive of the neighborhood's families with job placement assistance and connections to both public and non-profit resources. The Family Resource Center will become a central hub of the neighborhood through its extensive partnerships with organizations that have committed to supporting the needs of the community.

Truancy will be a key focus for the Family Resource Centers. School attendance is a critical component of academic success and, by working hand-in-hand with educators and parents, the DHS social workers will be focused on removing the barriers to attending school. From hunger, transportation and child care to behavior and educational challenges, the DHS social worker will connect clients with the resources that address the challenges that may be keeping the child from attending classes.

In essence, the school becomes the central resource center for the entire neighborhood. The full implementation of this model will ensure that DHS is located where our clients are, providing the resources that will lead to independence – both for this generation and the next.